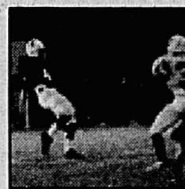


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The Talon

Avila College

11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145

September 27, 2001

Vol. X

Issue 1

President inaugurated

Eric Findlay
News Editor

When you cannot find him taking a short jog, chasing a tennis ball around the court, or deep into a thrilling novel, then take a peek in his office. Chances are Tom Gordon, the president of Avila College, is behind that closed door putting in a little extra work.

Since becoming the interim president on Jan. 15, 2000, Gordon has been putting in long hours of dedicated work, which will soon be rewarded. On Saturday, Sept. 29, he will be inaugurated as the official President of Avila College. "There will be no transitional responsibilities put on myself but the decisions I make from this moment on have a lasting impact," Gordon said.

This momentous occasion will get under way with the Inaugural Mass, located at Visitation Church, 5141 Main St., at 10 a.m. Then at 2 p.m. the Inaugural Ceremony begins at Goppert Theater and immediately following will be the reception, which is taking place in the Whitfield Center.

The event committee has been planning since March. Various guests such as the Most Rev. Raymond Boland, the Bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph, along with U.S. Representative Karen McCarthy are attending.

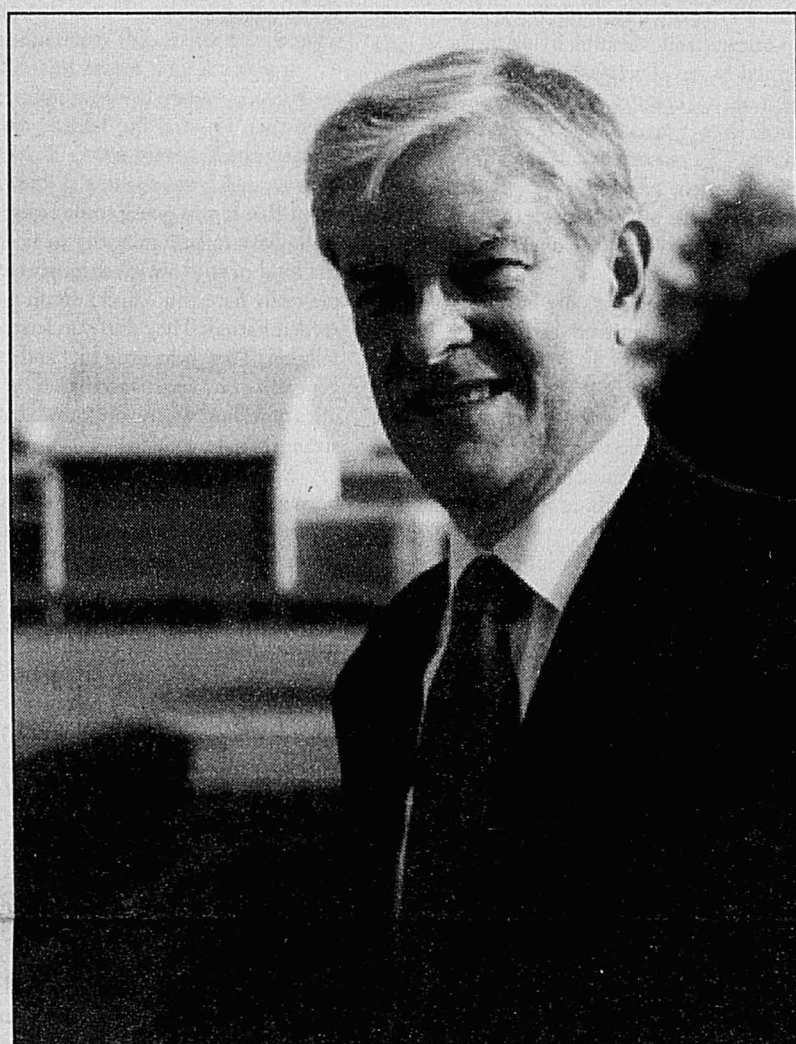
Dotty Hamilton, the chair of the committee for this event, feels that all of the

hard work and planning is worth the effort for the college's future president. "He brings a new energy to the college and he is the perfect person during a time of such growing and changing," she said.

The president complimented the committee's efforts and is very appreciative of its work. "They have been extraordinary. Faculty and staff who have planned the occasion have been tireless in their efforts and putting forth a great set of activities for the inauguration," he said.

After this event, Gordon will get back to business which includes helping improve campus and activities for students. "In the next few years I hope to expand and grow even more as a college, which would mean adding buildings, a football field, and several academic programs," Gordon said.

As Gordon prepares to make advancements and lead Avila in to the future, he is already witnessing some tremendous changes and progressions on the campus and in the eyes of the students, faculty, and staff. "I think [the students have] developed an enthusiasm and interest in the college and in its various activities. There is a high level of interest for the theater program, spirit squad, the new debate program, the new choral program, and the recent addition of a football team," he said.



E. Barnes

President Tom Gordon will be officially inaugurated on Sept. 29, 2001.

Heated debate over policy's fairness

Shannon Degitz
Staff Writer

You are at a friend's house having fun, you drink a little, and now it is time to go home. How will you get home? Who will be sober enough to drive you to your destination? Probably nobody so you get into your car and drive home. Does this scenario sound familiar?

"There are times when students have to drive home a little intoxicated. If Avila would allow alcohol on campus, this problem would be eliminated," Kevin Taylor, a 21-year-old campus resident, said. "I feel like my rights are being restricted. I would rather be able to drink here and not worry about finding a sober ride home."

"The alcohol policy isn't judging whether or not it is right to drink. For the type of environment Avila is, it is appropriate to have a dry campus. It is meant to keep all of the residents and everyone at Avila in a safe and comfortable environment," Wendy Briggs, the residence life director, said. "I have heard students say that the alcohol policy has changed from the previous year, but the only difference is the wording."

According to the student handbook, the policy states that all alcohol is banned from campus unless special permission is granted from the Vice President and Dean

of Student Affairs. It also makes clear that "...all persons in presence of alcohol and alcohol paraphernalia will be documented and referred to the disciplinary system."

"Alcohol paraphernalia includes open bottles in rooms or alcohol bottles or boxes for decoration," Briggs said.

"They need to loosen up. They should allow people who are over 21 to have alcohol but severe penalties if they are caught providing it to minors."

Briggs wanted the policy to be fair and unified. "I don't want some students to just get a warning while others get referred to the disciplinary system. All students will be treated fairly."

Different steps are taken depending on the severity of the case. All offenders are required to take the alcohol 101 class facili-

tated by Briggs, Alicia Hofmann, the associate dean of student affairs, or Terrell Tigner. Community service, fining and expulsion from the dormitories are other possible consequences for more severe offenses.

Hoffman said, "This year we want people to have an awareness of what the effects of alcohol are with the first offense and not just a warning. Depending on the severity of the case, other steps will be taken."

Students feel that being punished for having alcohol paraphernalia is unfair. "They need to loosen up. They should allow people who are over 21 to have alcohol but severe penalties if they are caught providing it to minors," Sophomore Lucas Wiester said. "And as for not allowing us to have empty beer bottles or any paraphernalia as decoration, I don't agree. I am old enough to view alcohol paraphernalia. Just because it is in my room doesn't mean that it is going to promote it to others. And if it does, well, they can leave my room."

Mary Mancuso, a sophomore, said, "I can understand Avila being a dry campus but it's a harsh punishment if you are caught around it and you haven't even been drinking. Especially if it is not yours or you weren't aware that it was in the same place

that you were."

No matter what the reasons are for supporting or opposing it, Avila's alcohol policy is a heated topic for some and for others it is just a matter of whether or not it is fair.



File Photo

Stiff penalties await students who bring alcohol on campus.

Preaching peace and tolerance

Liz Horsley
A&E Editor

We all watched and listened in horror as our fellow Americans were attacked with our own commercial airplanes. In our grief, we have had an outpouring of sympathy and volunteers to join in the relief efforts.

Amongst all of this goodwill, there is a weed of hatred that has taken hold. This hatred is directed toward Arabs, Arab-Americans and Muslims living in the United States. These are people who have lived in this country for years, some their whole lives, who are now terrified to be in public. The reason they are so afraid is because of the backlash of anger that some Americans are taking out on them. Muslim mosques have been threatened and vandalized.

Vindictive strangers are harassing anyone who looks like they may be from the Middle East.

Iman*, an Arab-American, feels the hatred directed at her by people who do not even know her. She is a college student in the Kansas City area, and the only time she leaves her house anymore is to go to her classes.

"I've lived through a lot of discrimination...it's hard enough to be different in America. It is the melting pot, but we're the least accepted race right now in the U.S.," Iman said.

Iman was born in the United States, but her parents are Libyan and Egyptian. At the age of two she moved with her family to Libya, and five years later they moved to Ireland. At the age of 12, her family came back to the United States and has lived here ever since.

"I like my ethnicity, I have pride in it. I really like America, but I also miss Libya a lot. It's a beautiful country, but unfortunately it's under a dictatorship right now. But the people there are so innocent and sweet," Iman said.

Iman was driving to an early morning class the day of the attacks when she heard the news on the radio, "I thought it was a joke when they said the second aircraft had crashed into the towers. I just thought, 'That's not funny, that's a mean joke.' When I started changing the stations, all of them said the same thing, so I knew it was real. At that point I had already gotten to school. Nobody had mentioned terrorism yet, but I knew they would."

Iman had classes all day, and she only saw a few minutes of the news coverage in between her classes. "When I was watching it, I kept hoping that it wasn't Arabs involved in the attack. I was thinking, 'We don't need this.' There was already enough prejudice toward our race after the Oklahoma bombing. This is just horrible, what the terrorists did," she said.

It was not long before Iman's fears were confirmed, "When it was announced on the news that [Osama] Bin Laden was the prime suspect, I went numb. Tears came to my eyes and I was shaking. I knew at that point that it was going to be really bad. You really have to be a minority to understand the kind of stuff we go through when people really hate you — and I mean a deep-seeded hatred. They don't understand our religion. They hear little bits and pieces and generalize our entire race based on that. It's a scary feeling when you know that perfect strangers hate you."

She instantly felt the backlash toward her race, "I'd hear other Americans say, 'We're going to retaliate.' They would say it to me, as if it was an actual threat to me, like I was responsible for the attacks."

Iman has not had any direct threats on her life, but she still feels fearful to leave her house. "So far I've been pretty lucky. Everybody I know has been nice to me. This is where I'm seeing the really good side of Americans," she said. "But at the same time, I have circles of friends and co-workers that I have chosen to spend time with, so I'm not surprised by how nice they are being."

As for other Arabs and Muslims, it has not been so easy. "My cousin had an attempt on his life. He was driving, and some stranger tried to run him off the street. My female friends who wear scarves are afraid to wear them anymore. A friend of mine wore her scarf to work that Tuesday, and people were following her. A few people even went to the building she works at after they saw her go in there. They were asking her co-workers for her name and address. Some of her co-workers leave hostile e-mails on her desk," she said.

The Muslim faith has been the focus of several hate crimes since the attacks. Iman is Muslim, and she believes strongly in her faith. She wants people to know that Islam

is not a violent religion.

"There have been so many misconceptions about Islam. The main one that I've heard this past week is that 'Muslims are brought up with the idea that they have to go to war, and their faith is a very violent faith.' That's not how it is, though. Scholars have said that it's among the most peaceful religions in the world," Iman said.

"The terrorists are manipulating Muslim scripture to validate their actions. But they are wrong, this is not what our religion promotes, this is not Islam. Almost any kind of violence that is happening in the Middle East is not Islam. The terrorists may claim to be Muslim, but they are not following the Islamic beliefs," she said.

"It's similar to the way Aryans deface Christianity. I know the majority of Christians do not support the actions of the Aryans. Just as the vast majority of Muslims do not support the actions of the Taliban. Most Muslims do not even recognize these people as Muslims. They are a disgrace to our faith," she said.

Part of Islam is to accept that not everybody will be living according to one belief system. The Qur'an is the holy book of the Islamic faith. There is a quote taken directly from the Qur'an that says, "You have your religion, and I will have mine."

"If there's anything in Islam that embodies how we accept differences, it is that quote. This is something we totally go by. We do not judge other people for the way they are living. What the Taliban people are doing is not at all supported by the Muslim faith. They are uneducated. They are extremists. They are mixing in so much culture, like the way they oppress women. It's ridiculous. The way they treat women is a sin. If anybody has a right to a religious war, it's the people who are being oppressed by the Taliban," she said.

Iman does not expect to see an end to the hate crimes any time soon. "I think it's ok if people have a prejudice to me. I can't change the way they feel. As long as they don't act out violently or impede on my rights, then I am fine with it. Everybody has some sort of prejudice; that's human nature. It's the violence and hatred that stem from this prejudice that scare me," she said.

Iman feels that many Arab-Americans



S. Maley

Students gather in remembrance at the Avila College candlelight vigil.

may come off as cold and unaffected by these events. She wants people to know that Muslims and Arabs are simply too scared to show their grief right now, "I'd like to say to other Americans that I am grieving for the lives lost, too. I would like to be able to grieve more than I have been, but I'm too scared thinking about what could happen to my loved ones and me. Arab-Americans want to mourn, but we're too busy looking over our shoulders. We have to constantly be on guard, wondering when the next hate-crime will be. We're scared. What I'd like to say to the other Americans is, 'Please, just let us mourn like you. We'd love to, we have a hole in our hearts, too.'"

**The person interviewed in this article is using the pseudonym "Iman" in order to protect herself and her family from further harassment.*

Kansas City sends its love

Kathryn Stasevich
Copy Editor

"The nation sends its love and compassion to everybody who is here. Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for making the nation proud."
- President George W. Bush.

American flags adorn businesses, homes, and people. Kansas Citians are also displaying their patriotism by coming to the aid of the victims of New York and Washington, D.C.

KMBC TV, in partnership with the American Red Cross, sponsored "Help from the Heartland," a two-day telethon. By Sept. 19, the telethon, in conjunction with donations collected at Price Chopper stores, raised \$1,582,200. The funds will help the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks.

The *Kansas City Star* is reprinting its extra edition of "America Under Attack," and selling it for \$5. All of the proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross disaster relief fund.

aster relief fund.

People, eager to help, lined up at local blood banks and blood drives to give blood and plasma. A blood drive held in Olathe the day after the attack had a four-hour waiting period. It has been reported that over two million people have called the American Red Cross and made appointments to donate blood.

In the next several weeks, as victims receive treatment and undergo surgeries, the blood supply in New York and Washington, D.C. will need to be replenished. The Community Blood Center is encouraging donors to make appointments during the next several weeks, in order to ensure a continuing blood supply.

Rescue dogs have played a major role in the search and rescue effort and were in need of supplies. The Three-Dog Bakery located on the Plaza collected money, dog food, and dog boots to send to the canines. The bakery collected donations at its store

and by sending out e-mails to 8,000 people. The campaign raised \$7,000.

Some Kansas volunteers traveled to New York to help search through the debris. Missouri urban search and rescue team members were among the teams working 12-hour shifts looking for possible survivors. Missouri Task Force One, a combination of 62 trauma surgeons, nurses, structural engineers, and firefighters also flew to New York to offer a helping hand.

Those interested in helping the victims in New York and Washington, D.C. should contact the American Red Cross or the local blood banks. Kansas City sends its love and support to the families and victims touched by the terrorist attack.

Financial Donations
American Red Cross
Disaster Relief Fund
(800) HELP NOW or (816) 931-8400
Kansas City Chapter
211 W. Armour Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64111
www.redcross.org
Catholic Charities USA Fund
(800) 764-5220
1731 King St., Suite 200,
Department D
Alexandria, VA 22314
Heart to Heart International
(800) 764-5220
401 S. Clairborne, Suite 302
Olathe, KS 66062

Blood Donations
Donors must be 17 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. Additionally, it has to have been at least one year since your last body piercing or tattoo.

American Red Cross
(816) 931-8400
The Community Blood Center
(888) 647-4040

September 27, 2001

The Talon

Divorce, poker buddies, and alimony

Jeremy Cox
Staff Writer

Curtains open, and the lights go up to kick off the 2001-2002 theater season at Avila College. The year begins with Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*.

The Odd Couple tells the story of two divorcees, who take a crack at living together. Set in 1960s New York, best friends Oscar and Felix are forced to move in together upon Felix's divorce. The problem is they are complete opposites.

Oscar, a complete and utter slob, opens his home to Felix, an obsessive "neat freak," and from the beginning the sparks begin to fly. Playing the unlikely roommates are Senior Chris Gleeson (Oscar) and Sophomore Stephen Mitsch (Felix).

The couple reaches their boiling point

when Felix tries to turn Oscar's weekly poker game into a tea party, filling his poker buddies' minds with nonsense about coasters, ashtrays, and napkins. When people begin to stay away from the apartment, someone has to go. Will it be Felix with his pots, pans, and disinfectant, or Oscar's sanity?

But how bad could Felix possibly be? When asking Mitsch, who plays the cleanly individual, he said, "Imagine the most cleanly person you can imagine, then double that and you might get a glimpse of what it would be like to live with Felix. You have to understand, Felix is an emotionally unstable man who is bound to his routines. Cleaning just happens to be one of the

more important routines. This, when thrown in with a slob, makes it unbearable for both individuals."

Outside of the Oscar/Felix relationship, this show is about the developing friendships between men. "We got a chance to get together outside of practice and got a chance to bond. It's a funny thing, we didn't have to act like we're friends playing poker on stage, because we are friends playing poker on stage," Freshman cast member Steve Castro said.

Not only does the play introduce new actors to the stage, but it also welcomes a new member to the Avila directing family. Sidonie Garrett makes her directorial debut at Goppert with this show, bringing new

ideas and energy to the Avila stage. "I feel that letting the actors find a way to sort of feel through the show, is important. I like to let them select their own style of how a character should be done. After all I expect the actors to be the best that they themselves can be. I don't put any pressure on them to be or do anything different," Garrett said.

The Odd Couple runs Oct. 4, 5, 6, and 7, with a dinner theater on Oct. 5 and 6.

Stand up and shout for rock music

Jeremy Lillig
Staff Writer

Rock Star

★★★1/2 (out of ★★★★★)

Rated: R

Running Time: 104 minutes

Starring: Mark Wahlberg,

Jennifer Aniston



Warner Bros. Pictures

Wahlberg and Aniston discover the seedier side of "Rock Star" life.

Welcome to the jungle. The world of hair, rock, leather, and girls is captured with the utmost of sincerity in the film *Rock Star*.

It is the story of a struggling singer who gets the break of his life when he is chosen to take the place of the singer he replicates in his tribute band. He is thrust into the world he admires and is forced to question if it is all what it has appeared to be. The world of sex, metal, and drugs tears at the things that make his life real.

Wahlberg tackles this role with the dimensions that it deserves. His character is well rounded and clearly well researched. Everything from the look to the singing is down. For Wahlberg, lip-syncing is not just moving his mouth to the words. He involves everything about himself to make the character very believable.

The story takes some cliché twists and turns, and winds up where you predict it. That is ok when you look at the story, which is honest and simple. The fast-paced

feel works well to bridge the epic story as the audience is forced to follow the band "Steel Dragon" all over the world. This film is a porthole to the '80s that makes you want to get out your Guns & Roses and Def Leppard albums and sing as loud as you can.

A must-see recommendation to those who love music, movies, and light-hearted entertainment

Come to The Pub

Club Review
Karen Guber
Editor-In-Chief

Get in the car and from Avila go west on 435. Take the Metcalf exit and make a right. Go to 80th Street and turn left. Take 80th to Santa Fe Drive and turn right. It will be on the left. Park the car in the closest spot and get ready to party because it is Friday night.

Leave the meat market and wall-to-wall people fighting for space over at America's Pub and check out The Pub on Santa Fe. The bar transforms into a club on Friday and Saturday nights.

While technically there is no dance floor, there is enough room for everyone to get their groove on. The Pub is one of the few places to go around town where you can be sure there are not going to be sweaty strangers bumping into you every time you move. Do not let the numbers fool you. There are enough people to keep the evening interesting, without being overcrowded.

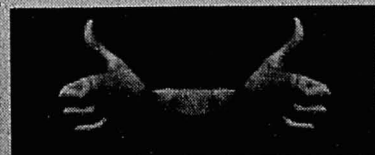
It is definitely not a dive. You may think that because it is not jam-packed with people that it is not a good place to go. Think of it more as undiscovered territory — at least for now.

The Pub also sports an outside patio, perfect for chilling down after busting a few moves on the floor or hanging out with a few friends.

Most importantly, the music is awesome. The DJs make the trip worthwhile. I am not going to mention any names, but you will probably recognize them from around campus.

If you want to hear who is spinning all the hottest jams, you are going to have to check it out for yourself. These guys are as good as it gets. Even if you do not like to dance, they put on an entertaining show. Remember it is 21 and up and there is no cover at the door.

The Pub on Santa Fe gets:



Up To
\$1,500/Semester
Tuition Reimbursement.
Medical Benefits, Dental,
Vision and Great Career
Opportunities

Great Part-Time Jobs !

JobLine 913-541-2796 ext. 3873

Positions open at our Lenexa and James St. locations \$8.50-\$9.50/Hr



United Parcel Service

EOE M/F

Recruiter on Campus October 4, 2001 & November 8, 2001 in Cafeteria.

Football season opener falls short

Amanda Boyer
Staff Writer

The Avila Eagles took the field for the first varsity football game in Avila's history. Surrounded by 3,000 screaming fans the team faced off against the William Jewell Cardinals.

The Eagles are an inexperienced team with 18 freshmen starters. "We're young, but I think in one to two years we will be up to par. Right now we have four upperclassmen and the rest are freshmen," Offensive Coordinator Scott Frear said.

"I think they understand how we are just a freshman team, and we're just trying to compete," Senior Bobby Bass said.

After scoring three touchdowns in the first half, the Cardinals were up 21-0. After a half-time break, the Eagles came back reenergized. With five minutes left in the third quarter, quarterback Malik Kincheloe, ran in the first Eagles touchdown.

During the Cardinals next possession, cornerback Steve Miller intercepted the ball.

On fourth down with 21 yards to go, Avila sent out kicker Massimo Scaccia for a 53-yard field goal attempt. Scaccia put it through the uprights to make the score 21-9.

"It was a great feeling because it was the longest field goal I've ever kicked in a game," Scaccia said.

The Cardinals increased their lead by two more touchdowns. Bobby Bass, Avila's lone senior, and Sophomore Kevin Furderer each scored a touchdown for the Eagles, making the final score 33-23.

"We did okay; we made some mistakes, but that went both ways," Furderer said of the Eagles overall performance.

"We played with dignity as well as pride for four quarters. Take away two mistakes, and we won that game. We played our hearts out, which we intend to do every game," Bass said.

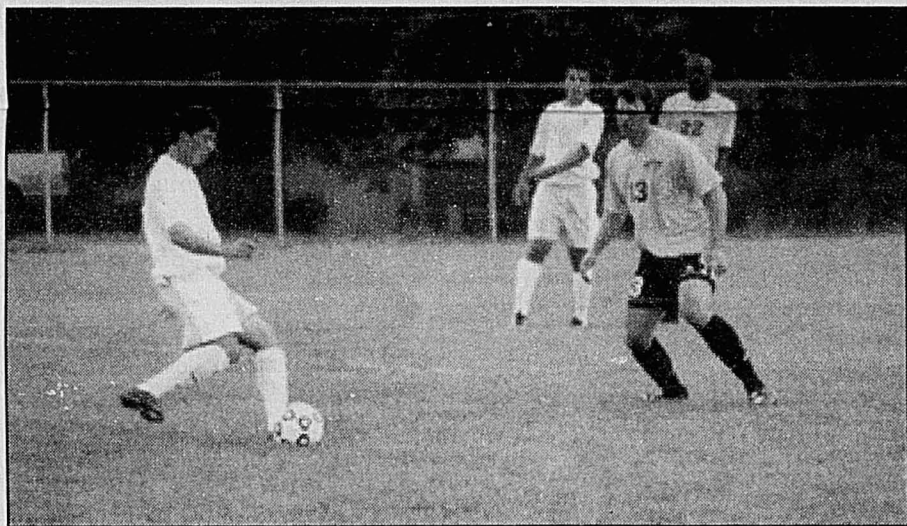


K. Guber

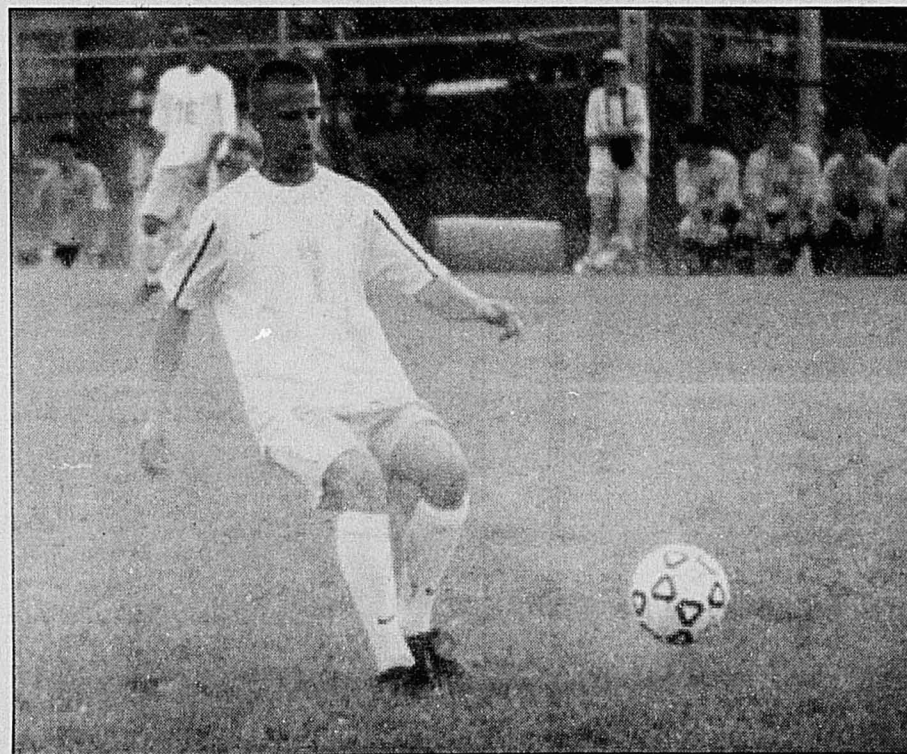
Blocking for the quarterback, Turner Elkins successfully takes the William Jewell defense out of the equation.

Men's soccer

Erin Barnes
Photographer



David Madeo prepares to send the ball past the Lindenwood defense.



Avery Abernathy receives a pass.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Football - more than just a game

Kathryn Stasevich
Copy Editor

Juggling his time between classes, studying, and football keeps Senior free-safety Bobby Bass on his toes. Currently in the middle of his final season with the Avila Eagles, Bass is an enthusiastic and motivating team leader.

Bass is proud to be a founding member of the Avila Eagles football team. "Avila is beginning a legacy. The team will continue to mature and succeed," Bass said. "I am just thankful that I got the opportunity to be a part of it."

Bass is excited that the football team has bonded and is beginning to play as a unit. "Everyone on the team is very com-

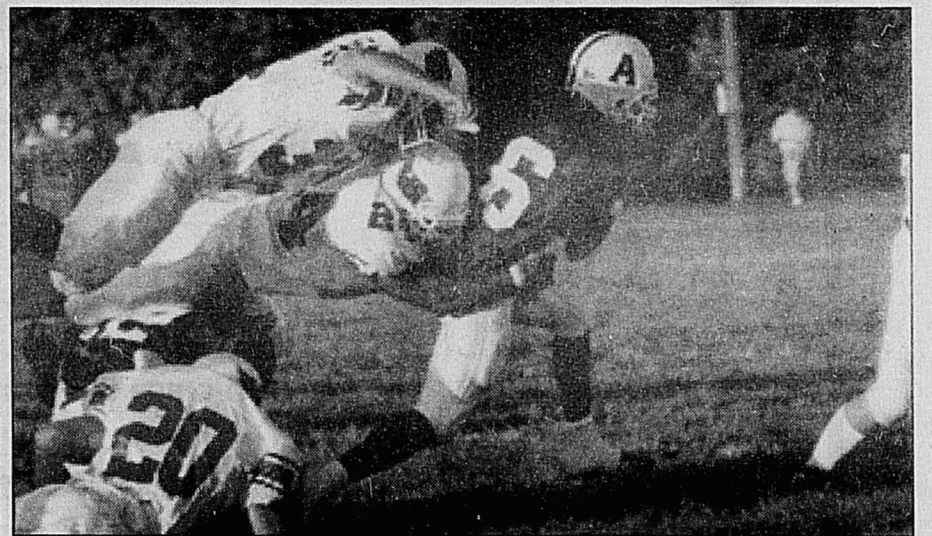
mitted," Bass said. "The only advice I can give them is to stay focused and always give 110 percent."

Football has always played an integral part in Bass' life. It has taught him many valuable life lessons. "Football has taught me a lot about life," Bass said. "It taught me about discipline, determination, focus, and striving to be the best."

Bass applies these lessons to every aspect of his life, including academics. "Playing a sport means you have to balance your time between the sport and your academics," Bass said.



K. Guber



On the turnover, defensive back Bobby Bass gains yardage while dragging two William Jewell players.

K. Guber

September 27, 2001

The Talon

Lady Eagles strive for successful season

Alana Groom
Staff Writer

With 13 returnees and six new players, the Avila women's soccer team hopes to improve on last season's record. After finishing 7-8-1, the Eagles hope to add more depth to this year's team.

Erin Phillips, a returning starter and forward, feels the team has a lot of versatility and now has every position covered. "We play possession ball, which means we control it and try to keep the ball in our possession. If we do this, things will pull together and we will be very good," Phillips said.

"With added depth and new motivation and enthusiasm the lady Eagles have the ability to win many games this season," defender Sarah Perry said.

The Lady Eagles have gotten off to a rocky start, winning only one of their first four games. "We need to work together as a team and pick up the intensity in practice, because you do practice how you play," Perry said.

"We have to play together to be successful. We need to pass the ball more instead

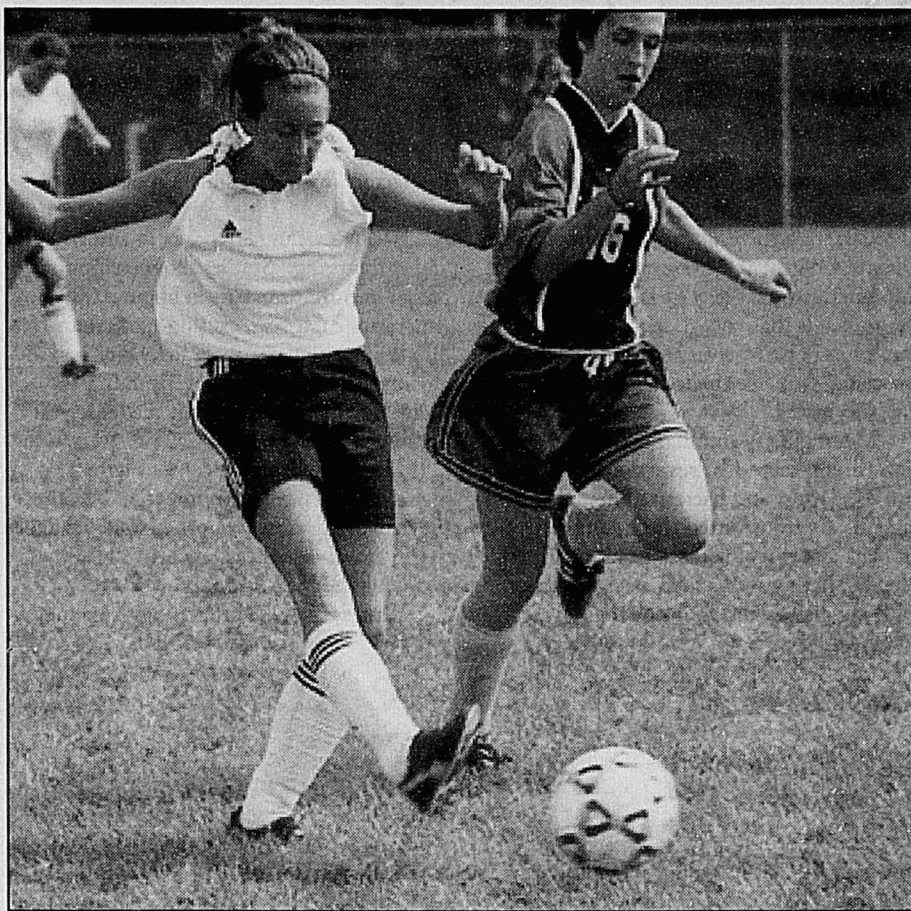
of trying to do it by ourselves," sweeper Nicole Sowders agreed.

Head Coach Jeff Randolph is confident in his team. "Every player is solid, there is no gap in their ability. We just need to have consistency, and we have not put together a complete game yet. We need to play hard at all times," Randolph said.

The Eagles only victory came Sept. 12, when they defeated Ottawa 2-1 in overtime, but many of the players agree that it is the first of many more to come.

It is only the second year that the women have competed in the Heart of America Conference. "It is hard to play in the conference because we do not know the strengths and weaknesses of our opponents yet," Perry said. Coach Randolph added, "It is tough to compete in a conference when you have at least three teams ranked nationally or regionally. Our schedule consists of a lot of outstanding teams and players."

The Eagles know that in order to produce wins, they need to play solid games.

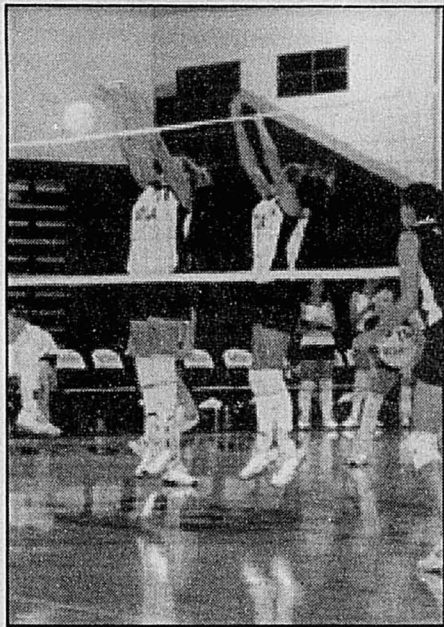


Crystal Mitchell sends the ball down the field.

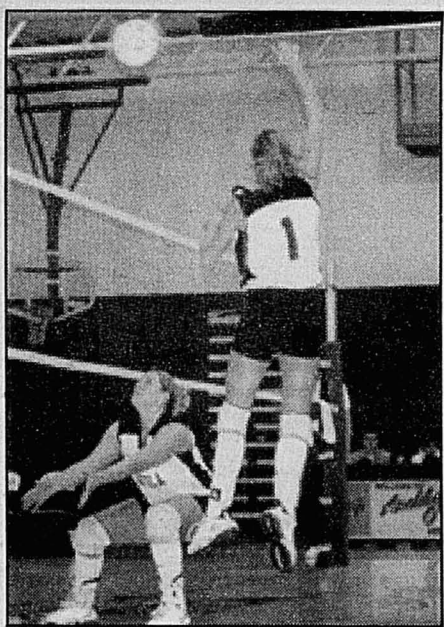
E. Barnes

Volleyball

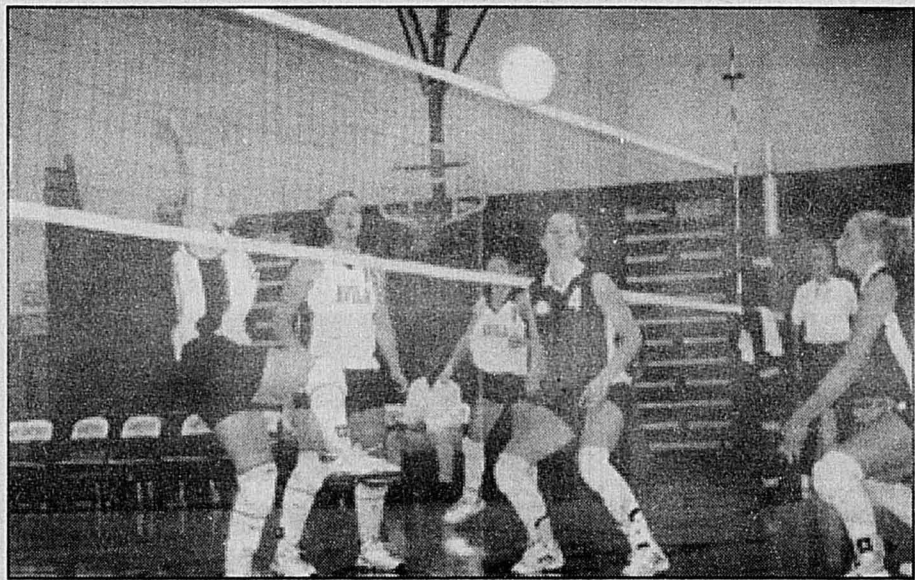
Andrea Sexton
Photographer



Mariah Wells blocks the hit.



Stephanie Bass jumps for the spike.



The Lady Eagles faced off against Evangel.

Face-lift for gym floor

Ryan Jackson
Sports Editor

If you have been inside of Mabee Fieldhouse this year, you may have noticed that the gym floor has a ripple. Over the summer, the floor suffered water damage. The teams that practice and play their games in the gym are very concerned about the condition of the floor.

Nick Totta, the men's head basketball coach, said the floor was damaged in June after the construction crew had left for the day. The baseline walls had been removed, and tarps were used to cover and protect the gym floor. During the night, a storm rolled in and the wind ripped at the tarps, and rain entered the fieldhouse.

The workers returned the next day only to discover that the gym floor was covered in water. There was extensive water damage to the floor and it is now being replaced.

The repairs are only just beginning, three months later, because the insurance companies needed to find out who was responsible for the damage. "It has not been determined because no one is acknowledging blame or fault," Totta said.

The goal is to have the floor done

before the start of the basketball season, which begins the first of November. This incident is going to have an impact on the sports that rely on playing on the gym floor.

Up until the volleyball team's first game they had to practice on the damaged floor. While it is being worked on, the team will have its practices from 7-10 p.m. at Center Middle School.

"We usually practice at four, so my study habits are going to be all mixed up now. In the beginning of the year you get into a rhythm with the way your day runs and it stinks whenever that gets messed up," Breanne Coleman, a senior volleyball player, said.

Some of the volleyball players' practice time will also be affected. "Some of the girls are going to have to miss a lot of practices because they have night classes," Coleman said. The volleyball team will have to put up with not having a gym floor for at least another month and a half.



The gym floor receives a new look after suffering water damage.

A. Sexton

Meningitis risk increases with on-campus living

Mitsuka Imahiro
Staff Writer

College students, particularly those living in residence halls, have an increased risk of contracting meningitis. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that college students and parents educate themselves about the dangers associated with meningitis and consider getting vaccinated.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the brain lining caused by several different viruses, germs, and bacteria. These microorganisms are transmitted through air droplets and direct contact from infected people. Sharing items such as cigarettes or drinking glasses and intimate contact are

key factors in the transmission of these diseases.

Meningitis usually peaks in late winter and early spring. Studies show meningococcal meningitis occurs in about 3,000 Americans each year, causing more than 300 deaths annually. Avila has never had any known cases of meningitis, but a University of Kansas student died last year because of the disease.

"Students living on campus have a higher risk of meningitis infection because they are living closely to other students and sharing food as well," Director of Health and Child Services Carol Frevert said.

Early symptoms of meningitis include

fever, rash, vomiting, severe headache, neck stiffness, fatigue, nausea and sensitivity to light. These symptoms are very similar to and often mistaken for the flu. If diagnosed early and treated immediately, most people make a complete recovery. However, some people may be left with a permanent disability such as deafness, blindness, or brain damage.

According to Frevert, Avila started offering meningitis vaccinations last year, and 33 students received the shot. Sophomore nursing major Mary Ingalls received the shot last year.

"My parents thought it was good idea to have [the shot] so that I would be pro-

tected against meningitis," Ingalls said. "I think that it is a horrible disease and that it is good to receive the shot so you will be protected."

On Oct. 23-24, Avila Health Services will give immunization injections in room 713 below Carondelet. This is located in the tunnel between the Marian Center and Hodes.

Those wishing to register for vaccinations can call Frevert at ext. 3668, or e-mail her at Frevert CM@mail.Avila.edu.

Avila residence halls mix it up

Sara Maley
Features Editor

Every morning around 9 a.m., Mary Mancuso tugs on her pink, terrycloth robe and white, foam shower shoes. She grabs a towel and her shower caddy, and pauses at her open door to check the hallway before exiting her third floor Carondelet room.

"No guys," she thinks to herself as she makes the short trip down the hall to the bathroom.

Mancuso is one of 75 women living among men in the co-ed resident halls. For the first time in its history, Avila is allowing all floors to be co-ed, except for one.

"Avila decided to switch to co-ed residence halls this year for many reasons," Alicia Hoffman, associate dean of student affairs, said. "There are more students, especially males, living on campus than ever before. In order to keep the freshmen and upperclassmen residence halls separate, it was necessary to combine males and females onto the same floors."

Hoffman first proposed the plan to Joe Deighton, dean of student affairs, and Tom Gordon, president, this summer. They felt that the combination of men and women on the floors creates a more positive environment for the residents.

"Statistics have shown that co-ed floors are enormously successful. People get along better, there is less vandalism, and less rule violation in general," Hoffman said. "There

is a type of positive peer pressure that occurs on co-ed floors, more so than on single sex floors."

This positive peer pressure appears to be working as residents of the co-ed floors learn to cohabitate with the opposite sex.

"I like living on a co-ed floor. We get to interact with the girls more and we've become really good friends. It's like we are a big family because we hang out all the time," freshman Anthony Rigolizzo said.

The floors are divided by wing and coordinate with the single sex restrooms. Though men and women do not have to worry about sharing restrooms, they do share laundry rooms.

"There haven't been many problems on the co-ed floors except occasionally with laundry," Jeremy McGowan, third floor Carondelet resident adviser, said. "Some people leave their laundry in the machines for three or four hours. People don't know what to do with it because they don't want to move the other gender's clothes."

Of the six floors in the two residence halls at Avila, all but one has been converted to co-ed. The fourth floor of Ridgway remains all-female for those women who feel uncomfortable living on the same floor as men.

"The request for single gender floors gets less and less each year. There are always

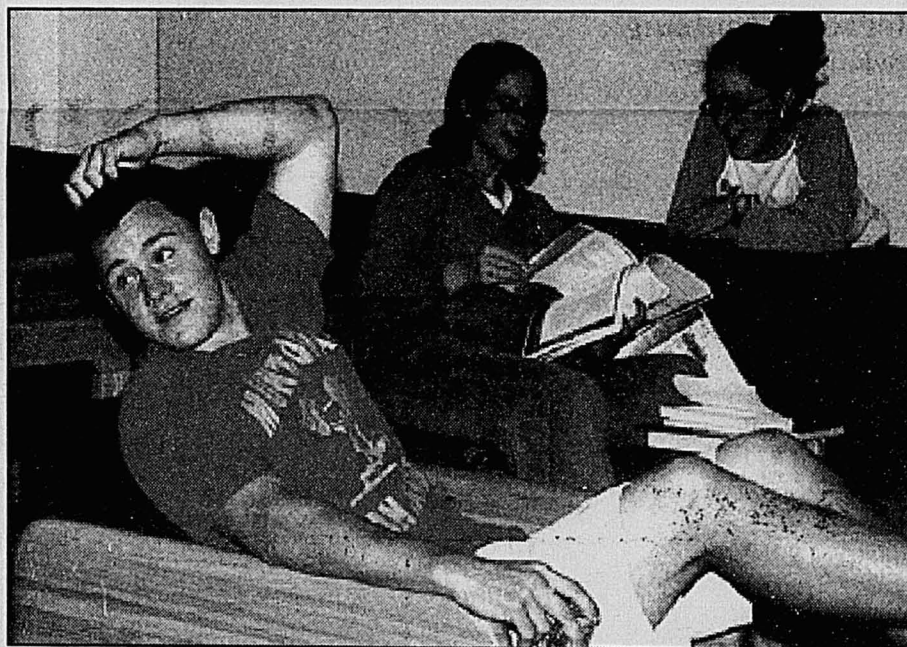
a few women who prefer living with all girls, so we needed an alternative for them," Hoffman said.

"I wanted to be on the all girls floor because I thought there would be less noise and I knew that I would always be able to use a bathroom, even if one is being cleaned or is full," Sophomore Christy Smigin said.

The issue of safety on co-ed floors is always a concern to new residents, as well as parents. However, most female residents feel

that they are perfectly safe living on the same floor as males.

"I thought living right next to two guys would be a little uneasy, but since I know them it has not been bad at all," Mancuso said. "My parents were a little concerned at first, but they feel better now that I've lived here a few weeks. I've reassured them that everything is fine and that I feel very safe."



M. Franke

Avila residents enjoy their co-ed floor.

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Portrait of a professor

Betsy Rechten
Staff Writer

On the road by 6:30 a.m., making the two-hour trip to school is the way each weekday starts for one Avila professor. Students do not usually think about what a professor's life is like outside the classroom. Receiving and doing homework for them is about as far as it goes for some.

This is a typical Monday for biology professor, Greg Fitch.

Fitch lives in Manhattan, Kan. Because of the long drives, he makes them fun by listening to books on tape, drinking four cups of coffee, and eating pumpkin seeds.

He gets to Avila about 8:30 a.m. to prepare for class. Unfortunately, the 30 minutes that he has, does not help much. There are always unexpected tasks that need to get done, such as listening to and returning phone messages.

Fitch has general biology and human anatomy and physiology lecture classes until noon. He brings his lunch to school on these days, because there is no time for him to go out and pick something up.

From 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Fitch has human anatomy and physiology lab, which he usu-

ally has to set up for his students. "Dr. Fitch is great. He takes a lot of time to go over the material and he is always there to help," Freshman Mrya Ambrozewski said. An hour after lab, the science faculty meets with students that are doing research projects.

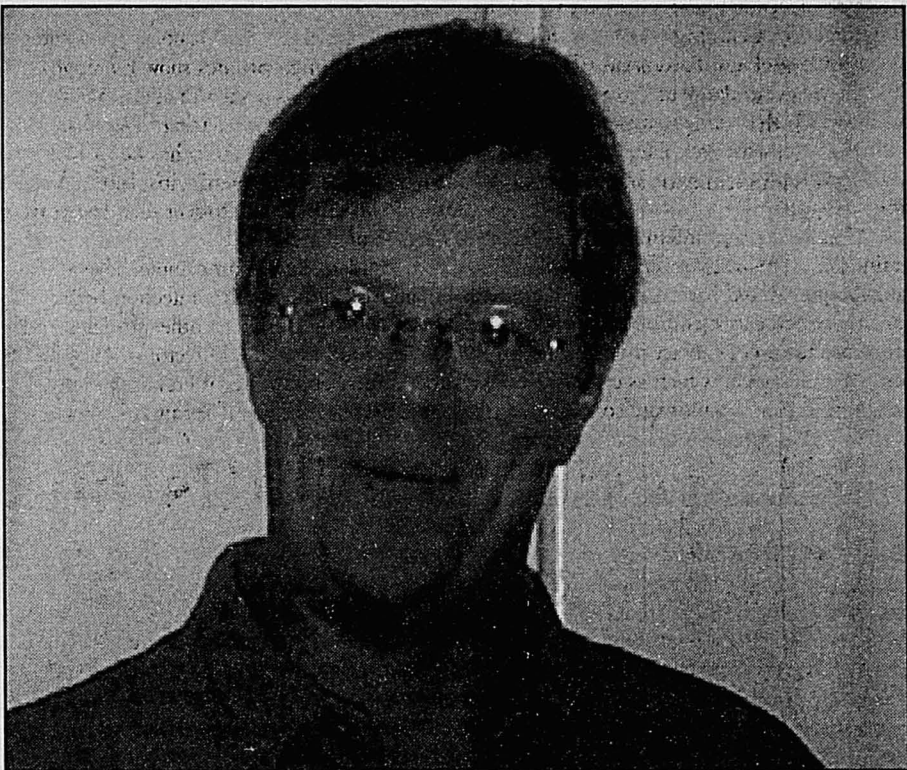
He begins his drive back home by 5 p.m., and at 7 p.m. he gets home to his two boys, ages 7 and 2. He considers this the hardest part of his day.

By 8:30 p.m., Fitch and his wife put their kids to bed. He reads one of the Harry Potter books to the 7-year-old every night.

"I can tell you anything you want to know about Harry Potter," Fitch said.

Fitch also described how tired he was by this time. "The challenge for me is not to fall asleep before the kid does," he said.

This is the jam-packed day for one Avila professor, but he would never give it up. "All in all the job here is a 10 on the scale of how fun it is," Fitch said.



E. Barnes

Dr. Fitch manages to be energetic, despite a two-hour morning commute.

Events calendar

Megan Redenbaugh
Production Manager

OCTOBER 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
WS- Women's Soccer MS- Men's Soccer FB- Football VB - Volleyball			Greater Kansas City Employer Fair 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at UMKC (Swinney Rec Center) 50th and Holmes	The Odd Couple by Neil Simon 8 p.m. Free tickets for students, faculty, and staff	The Odd Couple 8 p.m. *Thornhill Gallery Opening Reception 6-9 p.m.	Homecoming Carnival and Dance in the Quad WS vs. Benedictine at 2 p.m. MS vs. Benedictine at 4 p.m. FB vs. Culver-Stockton at Rockhurst 1:30 p.m. The Odd Couple 8 p.m.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
The Odd Couple 2 p.m. Poetry Tribute 10 a.m. in Whitfield		VB at O'Hara 7 p.m.	Fall Break Begins No Classes	WS vs. William Jewell at 1 p.m. MS vs. William Jewell at 3 p.m. Fall Break	Avila Day Fall Break	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Chili Supper for Pre-Admitted Nursing Students	GAP- Haunted Houses	Psychology in Action Workshop Goppert 9 a.m.-Noon Topics: Sports Psychology Eating & Dysmorphic Disorders	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Meningitis Vaccinations	Meningitis Vaccinations	Sprint Interview Day Sign up in lower Blasco Hall by 10/04/01		FB vs. Graceland at Rockhurst 1:30 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
WS vs. Lindenwood at 1 p.m.		VB at O'Hara 7 p.m.	Happy Halloween! Halloween Costume Dance 8 p.m. in Marian Center	* Will display the works of Collette Marie Doering. It is a watercolor exhibition title "Celebration." The show runs from Oct.5-Nov.17. Admission is free.		
28	29	30	31			

Parking lot peril

Jeremiah Miles

Opinion Editor

"Where did all these cars come from? We should have designated spaces. Another parking ticket." These are just a few of the rants being heard from commuter and resident students, faculty, and staff.

The goal of Avila has been to increase the on-campus student body. The addition of the football team has increased the resident population, but has anyone thought to increase the number of parking spaces?

"Where did all these cars come from?" Everyone needs to consider Avila's on-campus population of 153 residents in 1998. Last year's count was 203 residents. This year's numbers have risen to 218, an increase of 43% since 1998. That translates into 65 students and 65 more vehicles in just three years. This growth has caused a parking shortage.

One example of this is the lot located outside of Dallavis and Ridgway. People double park, create their own spots, and park on the grass. The only solution for students parking in this area is for them to overflow onto Oak Street. Not only do these students risk the fate of their vehicles, they must also make the treacherous hike up the hill.

I disagree. Did it kill you to walk for two minutes? Remember how small the Avila campus is? Parking a block away is a convenience at some schools. The parking



Cars take up every available space in the lots from Dallavis and Ridgway to Carondelet.

A. Sexton

around the residence halls is sufficient. The lots are filled to capacity. Why waste valuable funds on the laziness of students?

"Should faculty have designated parking spots?" It is a good idea, except that most students do not pay attention to the reserved spots Avila already has. Consider the handicapped spots, the designated spaces for the sisters by Dallavis, no parking zones, and the visitor parking located by Blasco Hall.

Who deserves special parking privileges? Should teachers have to tote all of their belongings miles to their classroom? They should be able to park by the building where they teach. Should students have to carry loads of books to and from their cars everyday? Most students frequent many buildings, therefore, there is no convenient parking spot for them. The backpack was after all, created for a reason.

Give the spots to the teachers, why

should teachers get low pay and have to walk miles to work.

"Can you believe I got another parking ticket?" Does Student Life really collect any money off of them? There are more tickets on the ground than on the cars illegally parked. Whether the ticket is on the vehicle, or lying on the ground, when your vehicle is cited the violation is recorded in the Student Life Office. "The money from the fines goes into a security account, and then is used to purchase supplies, such as parking tickets," said Joe Deighton, dean of student affairs.

So are these unpaid fines still sought or are they just left uncollected? Student Life will track you down. The first offense receives a warning, the second a \$10 fine, the third a \$20 fine, the fourth a \$30 fine, and a fifth citation will result in the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense. If your fines go unpaid, an administrative hold will prevent you from registering for classes and getting your transcripts.

My suggestion is to require students to purchase parking stickers for their vehicles. This will force everyone to register their car in order to use the campus parking lots. This could generate revenue for the creation of new parking spaces.

Campus talk

Compiled by

Jeremiah Miles

Opinion Editor



What is your solution to the parking problem at Avila?

Mary Ingalls – Nursing

"Do not allow on-campus freshmen to bring their cars."



Simon Muturi – Safety Officer

"In general, there are enough parking places if people would park correctly."



David Smith
Lecturer in Religious
Studies/Research Associate

"Expand the parking lots near Wornall Road."



Travis Myers – Undeclared

"Take out the tennis courts and make parking lots there."



Kim Warren –
Financial Aid Assistant

"I did not know there was a parking problem."



Alicia Hoffman
Associate Dean of Student
Affairs

"Development of a better mass transit to and from Avila College."

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